

DC
BATMAN

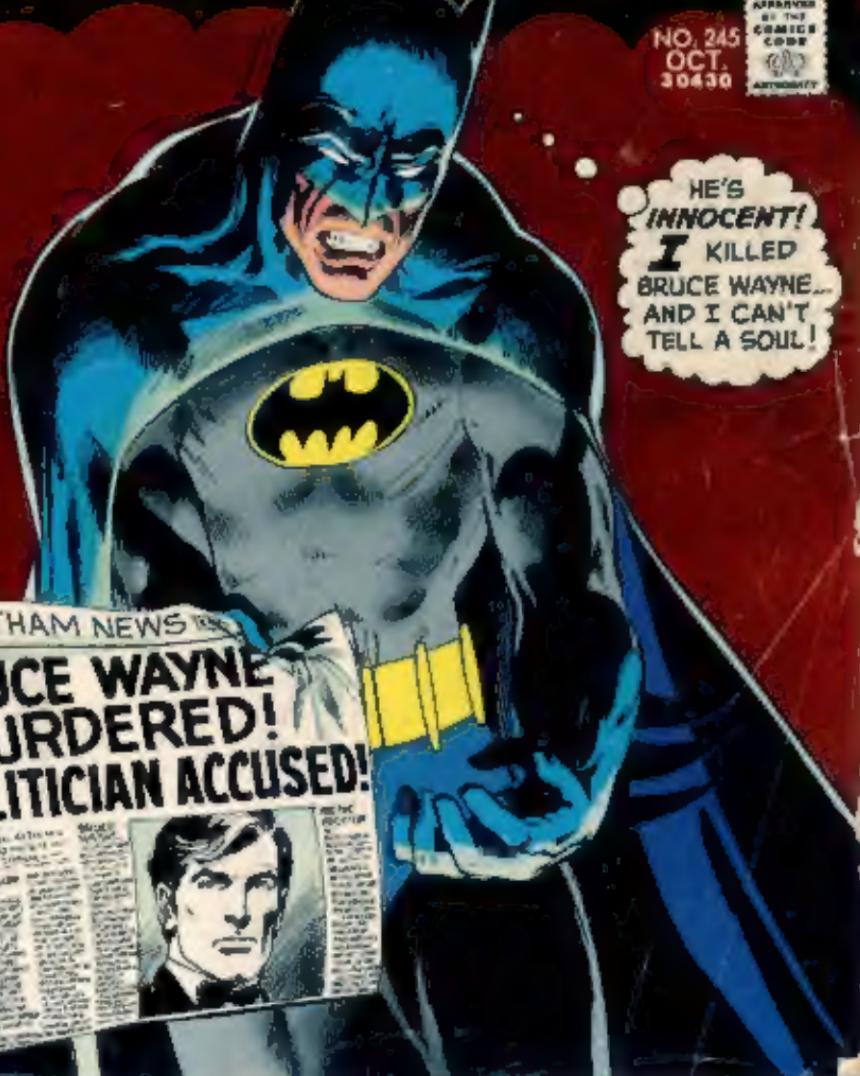
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BATMAN

NO. 245
OCT.
30430

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

HE'S
INNOCENT!
I KILLED
BRUCE WAYNE
AND I CAN'T
TELL A SOUL!



FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE CITY'S SECRET HEART COMES THE

BATMAN

**IN THE SKY, THE SILENT CALL
FOR THE DREAD BATMAN! AND
ON A GOTHAM CITY AVENUE,
A FAR FROM SILENT ARGUMENT.**

TRUE, MISTER HARVEY! I
EXPECT YOU'LL BE SEEING A LOT
OF THEM AFTER I PRODUCE MY
PROOF TOMORROW!

GENTLEMEN
P.S. CASES

**BILKER, I SAY
THIS ABSURD
ACCUSATION IS
SLANDER! - AND
I'LL HAVE YOUR
HIDE FOR IT.**

THERE ARE
COURTS IN
THIS COUNTRY

**BILKER ALLEGES
RIVAL OF WAYNE
MURDER!**

IN THESE SHRILL, HEATED WORDS IS THE BEGINNING OF WHAT IS PERHAPS THE BATMAN'S MOST BIZARRE EXPLOIT.

The BRUCE WAYNE MURDER CASE!

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL
ART: NEAL ADAMS &
DICK GIORDANO
EDITOR: JULIUS
SCHWARTZ

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BY HEAVEN, I
WON'T BE
THREATENED
BY A TWO-BIT
UPSTART--

BUT
YOU
WILL--

COOL
OFF!

THE
BATMAN!
WHERE
THE DEVIL
DID YOU
COME FROM?

I CALLED HIM
MR. HARVEY!

WHY, COMMISSIONER
GORDON--? WE'VE NO NEED
OF A MASKED MEDDLER HERE!

WE HAVE NEED
OF SOMEBODY
WHO CAN MAKE
SOME SENSE
OF THIS...
SHOUTING!

THE
BATMAN
KNEW
BRUCE
WAYNE
WELL!

HOW IS
WAYNE
INVOLVED?

AS YOU PROBABLY
KNOW, BATMAN,
THESE... MR-GENTLEMEN
ARE EACH BACKING
CANDIDATES IN THE FORTH-
COMING MAYORALTY
ELECTION!

A LESS CHARITABLE MAN
THAN MYSELF MIGHT CALL
THEM... POLITICAL BOSSSES!

MR. BILKER IS ACCUSING
MR. HARVEY OF HAVING
WAYNE KILLED!

ANY PARTICULAR
REASON
BILKER IS

YES! IMMEDIATELY
PRIOR TO HIS
DISAPPEARANCE,
WAYNE ANNOUNCED
HE WAS WITH-
DRAWING SUPPORT
FROM HARVEY'S
MAN.

AND IN THE
MORNING, I
INTEND TO
PROVE HARVEY'S
GUILT!

TEN MINUTES FROM THE SECOND YOU OPEN YOUR LYING MOUTH, BILKER, I'LL HAVE EVERY LAWYER IN THE STATE ON YOU!

BETTER SAVE THEM FOR YOURSELF!

GET OUT OF HERE - BOTH OF YOU!

DO YOU THINK WAYNE WAS REALLY MURDERED? THE REPORTS SAID HIS PLANE CRASHED IN SOUTH AMERICA!

I CAN'T EXACTLY SAY COMMISSIONER BUT THIS I CAN SAY... GOTHAM CITY CAN'T AFFORD AN UGLY POLITICAL SQUABBLE JUST NOW!



*NOTE: BRUCE WAYNE - REST IN PEACE - IN BATMAN #262.



THE QUESTION BECOMES -- IS HE DELIBERATELY LYING? -- OR IS HE BEING DUPED?

MAYBE THE
ANSWER LIES IN
THE ROOM BELOW—
BILKER'S PRIVATE
OFFICE!

SEEMS I'VE TIMED
MY ARRIVAL
PERFECTLY!

SAY BOSS—
TELL ME

...YA GONNA
SOCK IT TO
THAT HARVEY
FOR REAL?

INDEED I AM! BY
TOMORROW NIGHT,
HARVEY AND HIS
ORGANIZATION
WILL BE GARBAGE!

IN MY HAND
I HOLD A
PAPER WHICH
WILL DESTROY
THEM
PERMANENTLY!



SEEMS LIKE
EVERY CREEP
I GO AGAINST
HAS A WALKING
TUB OF SUET
WHOSE BRAINS
ARE IN HIS
KNOCKLES!

THEY HUFF
AND PUFF
AND SWING...

WORK UP A
LOT OF SWEAT
MAKING LIKE
BRAWLERS WHEN
THEY PROBABLY
COULDN'T WHIP
AN ORPHAN
ANNIE!

EVENTUALLY I GET TIRED
OF THEIR ANTICS...

...OR MAYBE I FEEL SORRY
FOR THEM! ANYWAY, I USUALLY
PUT THEM OUT OF THEIR
MISERY WITH A SHOT TO THE
GUT... AND A BIT OF KARATE!

SLEEP
TIGHT,
DUCKY!



AS YOU'LL SEE,
IT'S A NOTE
FROM BRUCE
WAYNE
HIMSELF....!
HE GAVE IT TO
ME THE DAY
HE LEFT FOR
SOUTH AMERICA!

IT SAYS:

I CAN READ, BILKER! ONE
OF MY MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

A WHISPER OF ASTONISHMENT ESCAPE'S THE
BATHMAN'S LIPS AS HE SCANS THE HAND-WRITTEN LINES.

FROM THE DESK OF
BRUCE WAYNE

Dear Bilker:
I have reason to believe
Jeffers Harvey plans my
murder. Should anything
happen to me, please
notify the authorities.

Cordially,
Bruce Wayne

EXPERTS WILL
VERIFY THAT THE
STATIONERY IS
FROM WAYNE'S
PRIVATE
STOCK.

IT'S UNCANNY
--AND TRUE!
I'D ALMOST
SWEAR I DID
PEN THIS!

AND THE
HANDWRITING
IS ALSO HIS!

EXCEPT
FOR ONE
THING--!

WHAT WAS THE
BATHMAN SPOTTED?

TOMORROW AT NINE,
I SHALL CALL A
PRESS CONFERENCE
-- AND CRUSH MY
OPPOSITION!

DON'T
COUNT ON
IT!

I'M SOREL TEMPTED
NOT TO INTERFERE!
HARVEY'S CANDIDATE
IS A CHEAP POLITICAL
HACK!

VOTE
FOR
MAC

IT WOULD BE
EASY TO STAND
BY AND DO NOTHING
UNTIL THE ELECTION
IS PAST!

THEN I COULD EXPOSE BILKER
AND MAYBE GET A DECENT
MAN ELECTED MAYOR!

NO DENYING
IT... I'M
TEMPTED!

BUT NOBODY APPOINTED
ME A GOD! SO I'LL DO
WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE--

FOLLOW THE PATH OF
JUSTICE... WHEREVER
IT MIGHT LEAD!



AND... IT LEADS TO A BROWNSTONE
IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD...

JUDGING FROM THAT
LIGHT, MY QUARRY IS
BURNING SOME MIDNIGHT
OIL! I'VE HEARD HE
LIKES THE WEE HOURS...

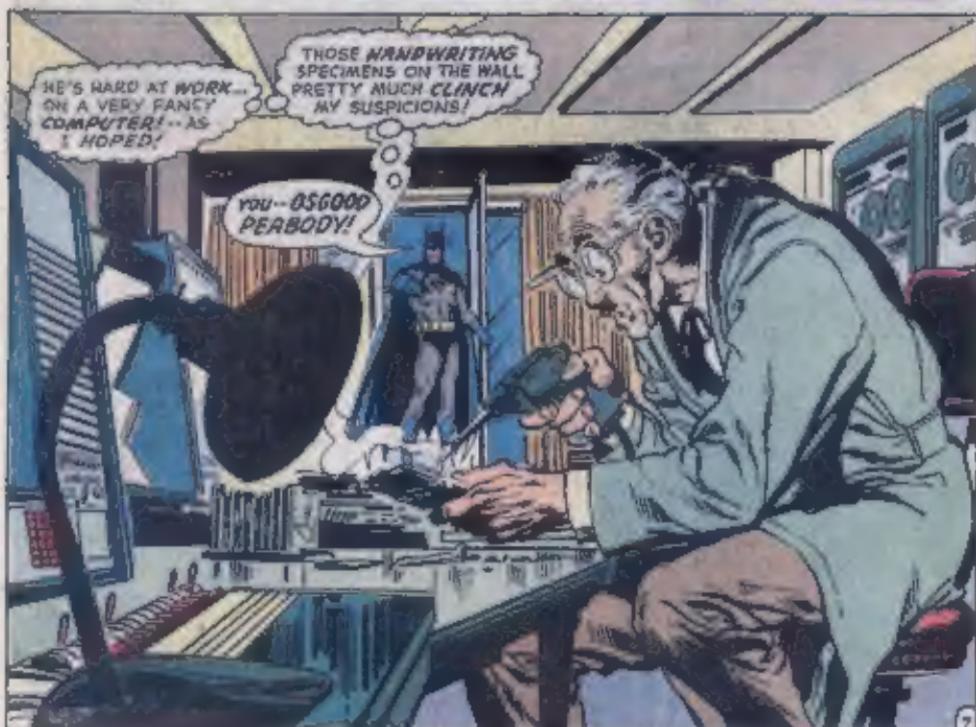
--WHICH
IS FINE!

THOSE HANDWRITING
SPECIMENS ON THE WALL
PRETTY MUCH CLINCH
MY SUSPICIONS!

HE'S HARD AT WORK...
ON A VERY FANCY
COMPUTER! --AS
I HOPED!

YOU--OSGOOD
PEABODY!!

I'D HATE TO
WAKE HIM
UP!





"...NOR WAS IT
DIFFICULT TO FIND
A SPECIMEN OF
WAYNE'S HAND-
WRITING! YOU'VE
USED YOUR TOY
TO COMMIT
FORGERY."

"...HAVEN'T
YOU?"

"HE FORCED
ME... BILKER!
HE SAID HE'D
KILL ME...
AND NOW HE
WILL! UNLESS..."

"UNLESS WHAT,
PEABODY?"

"UNLESS
I CAN
STOP
YOU!"

"...LIKE
THIS!"

ELECTRICITY...
CONTRACTING MY
FINGER MUSCLES!
CAN'T LET GO!"

"SORRY,
BATMAN!
I DON'T WANNA
HURT YOU."

"IN PRINCIPLE, THE COVERING
SCIENTIST TOUCHES LIVE, BARE
WIRES TO THE METAL SURFACE
THE BATMAN'S HAND RESTS ON
SENDING HUNDREDS OF NAKED
VOLTS COURSIING INTO THE
CRIME-FIGHTER'S BODY!"

"...BUT I NEED
PROTECTION!"



I'M LUCKY. I GUESS
IF I HADN'T BEEN
WEARING GLOVES, I
MIGHT'VE BEEN
ELECTROCUTED!

I WAS CONGRATULATING
MYSELF FOR SPOTTING THE
TELLTALE CLAMP MARKS ON
BILKER'S PHONY BRUCE WAYNE
NOTE. MARKS WHICH REMINDED
ME OF PEABODY'S
EXPERIMENTS!

BUT THE EVIDENCE IN HIS LAB IS
BURNED AND HE'S GONE, ALONG
WITH EVERY CHANCE OF
STOPPING BILKER

EX-EX
ONE!

MEANWHILE--IN BILKER'S OFFICE--

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP
ME. YOU I GOT TO TELL YOU
NOTHINGS WOULD
HAPPEN!
I CAN'T DEAL WITH THE
LAW WITH THE
BATMAN!

NOTHING
WILL
OSGOOD
TRUST
ME

WE'LL PUT YOU ON
A SNIP. BOUND FOR
AFRICA! YOU CAN
RIDE OR CRAWL AS
NECESSARY!

HAVE NO
PICKET. NO
MONEY!

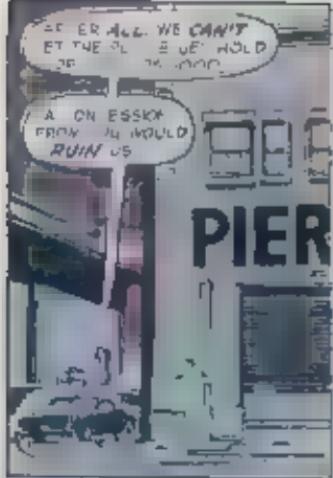
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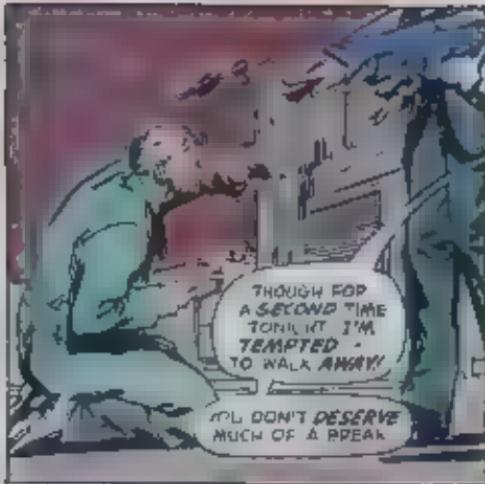
YOU'RE NOT TRUSTING
ME? I TAKE CARE
OF EVERYTHING!

JUST
RELAX
AS GOOD

WE'RE VERY CON-
CERNED ABOUT
OSGOOD. AREN'T
WE RICHARD?

YOU BETCHA,
ROSS.





A WAIL OF SIRENS, AND THEN...

WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE
BATMAN! AS USUAL, YOU
HANDLED THE SITUATION
NEATLY!

"I LAN FISH BILKER
HAD HIS PLAYDATE OUT
TO THE RIVER,
COMMA BRINGER

OR DON'T.
I'M NOT IN
A MOOD TO
CARE!

L'AMAG NE
DISGOOD PEABODY
IS READ TO
CONFESS IN
FULL!

YES, YES
HOW CAN I
THANK YOU?
YOU SAVED MY
LIFE!

NO, YOU
SAVED YOUR LIFE
YOU SAID I
NEED
PROTECTION!
I FIGURED I'D
DO IT BILKER
FOR Y

IT WASN'T
HARD TO
GUESS
WHAT HE'D
DO SO I
HID IN HIS
CAR AND
WAITED!

YOU'VE CINCHED
ELECTION OF THE HARVEY
CANDIDATE. HAPPY?

OH, SURE! I'VE
EXCHANGED ONE FORM
OF CORRUPTION FOR
ANOTHER! I'M
OVERJOYED!

EXCUSE ME, COMMISSIONER
HAVE A JOURNEY TO MAKE

TO A
SOUTH
AMERICAN
JUNGLE!

*** THE GOTHAM NEWS ***

BRUCE WAYNE FOUND ALIVE!

GOTHAM
MILLIONAIRE
SURVIVES
JUNGLE PLANE
CRASH!



THE GOTHAM NEWS

DC

FLASH

On Sale Aug. 15

read
DC's
BEST

DC

31

FLASH

On Sale Aug. 15

A GLOVED HAND
HESITATES FOR A
MOMENT THEN
OPENS A BULKY
A MAIL ENVELOPE

PULLS OUT SEVERAL
DECKS OF EASY TO STEAL
HARD TO TRACE CASH

AND SUBSTITUTES
DOLLAR SIZE STRIPS
OF THE REPORTER

THIS IS CALLED CRIME
AN ACT THAT IS DESIGNED
TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF
MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE.



THE PLACE IS HUDSON
UNIVERSITY IN THE
TOWN OF NEW CARTHAGE.

THE QUESTION FOR

ROBIN is...

"WHO STOLE
the GIFT
from NOWHERE!"

SAY IT AGAIN,
DICK.
ELLEN ROBIN
GORDON



“RAY SAM - HERE'S THE ARTICLE
STARLY ASSIGNED ABOUT THE
TUTORING PROGRAM FOR THE
KIDS IN NEW CARTHAGE!”

“SUNDAY
AF ERNON
AS EACH ROBIN
GRAYSON WALKS
INTO THE HEETIC
OFFICES OF
THE HUDDON
HERALD, THE
UNIVERSITY'S
WEEKLY STUDENT
NEWSPAPER.”

“LIKE MAN,
THIS PIECE IS A
TOTAL ENIGMA.”

MURRAY
ZANI

“WELL, DICK
GRAYSON, YOU
DO THAT INTERVIEW
WITH RALPH HADFORD?”

“NO, NO,
YOU TOLD
SOMEONE
ELSE TO
WRITE.”

“LOOK,
STARLY - I
JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND
YOUR
EDITORIAL.”

“LIKE WHAT DO
YOU MEAN BY
“WE HAVE TAKEN
THE FIRST STEPS
THROUGH THE
BRAMBLES
AND...”

“JUST PRINT
IT SAM.”
“I AM THE
EDITOR...
I'M ALLOWED
TO BE VAGUE.”

“STARLY
T'S LUNE
ON THE
PHONE.”

“THANKS,
DIANE.”

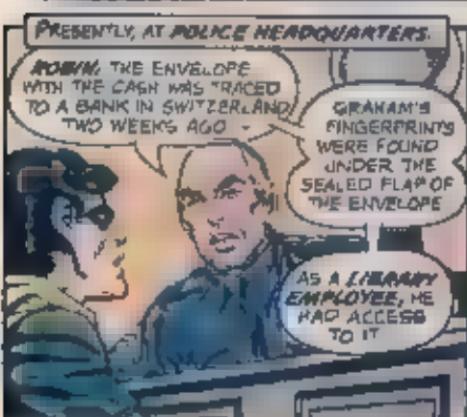
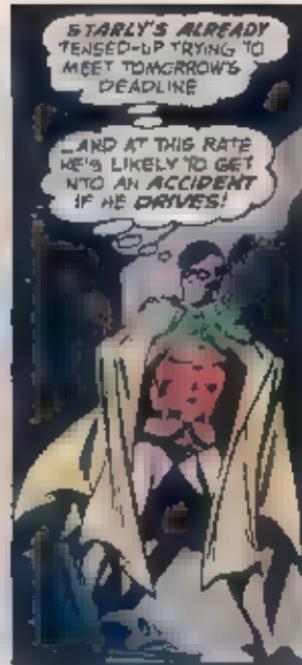
“UH - THE
STORY,
STARLY.”

“YOU'RE
WHERE?!”

“FIFTY
THOUSAND
DOLLARS!”

“I'LL BE
RIGHT
OVER.”







BACK ON CAMPUS, AFTER THE TEEN WONDER HAS ESCOURED TERM ASION TO DISCOVER WHERE THE DECKS OF NEWSPAPER STRIPS.

LUKE'S THE MOST INTO-NHIMSELF GUY I KNOW!

ALL HE STUDY AND PLAY SOCCER.

...AND WORK IN THE LIBRARY.

DID YOU SEE LUKE?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

DIANE--
M'LADY--
T'S ALL
RIGHT

ROBIN
TOLD ME
HE'S GOT
A LEAD!

HEY--

I ONLY TOLD
YOU BECAUSE YOU
WERE SO
UP-TIGHT!

BESIDES IT
ISN'T EVEN
A BIG LEAD.

SO DON'T
GO BLABBERING
AROUND

IT IS SAID IN THE DARK
HAUNTS OF GOTHAM
THAT THE PIERCING
GLANCE OF THE BATMAN
CAUSES THE GUILTY TO
WRITH IN TERROR

CAN THE SAME
BE SAID OF HIS
PROTEGE - THIS
YOUNG MAN WITH
THE PENETRATING
EYES. *



MR. GERSON--
MAY I PLEASE
SEE A LIST OF
THE LIBRARY'S
NEWSPAPER
SUBSCRIPTIONS?

PERIODICALS

S SURE
ONE
MINUTE



JH HUH!
JUST AS
I THOUGHT!

ALL OF THE PAPERS
THAT WERE IN THE
ENVELOPE ARE
LISTED

AND THIS GERSON CHARACTER
IN CHARGE OF THE PERIODICALS
IS THE ONLY ONE WITH ACCESS
TO BOTH THE NEWSPAPERS
AND THE STOLEN CASH!

MR GERSON...
HAVE YOU
EVER SEEN
THESE BEFORE?

WHA-??

RUN, GERSON. AND LISTEN
TO THE CHILL GOING DOWN
IN YOUR SPINE.

THE CHILL THAT
WHISPERS, "GIVE
UP. ALL IS
LOST."

BECAUSE FOR SOMETHING AS
BASE AS MONEY, YOUR LIFE
WILL BE CHANGED.

YOU MUST RUN--OR THERE WILL
BE A JAIL CELL FOR YOU.

SO PANIC, MISTER--PANIC...



SOON AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

WEIRDEST THING
I EVER SAW...

I WALK IN WITH
ALMOST NO
EVIDENCE...

...AND THIS
GUY CONFESSES
IN FRONT OF
WITNESSES!



SOME
PEOPLE JUST
AREN'T CUT
OUT TO BE
DISHONEST!

JUST ONE MORE
MYSTERY... HOW
LUKE'S FINGER-
PRINTS GOT ON
THAT ENVELOPE!

THERE'S ONLY ONE
EXPLANATION I CAN
COME UP
WITH!



HELLO...
CREDIT-
CARD
CALL TO
SWITZER-
LAND,
PLEASE!

ROBIN...
WHO
ARE
YOU
CALLING?

A CERTAIN
SWISS
BANK--
TO FIND
OUT WHO
SENT ALL
THAT
MONEY
ANONYMOUSLY.



YOU FOUND
OUT THE
NUMBER
OF THE
BANK
ACCOUNT?

...AND I'M
ABOUT TO
FIND OUT THE
NAME OF LUKE'S
ANONYMOUS
BENEFICATOR!

WAIT...



YOU DON'T HAVE
TO CALL... I SENT
THE MONEY!

YOU!!



YES! THAT'S HOW MY
FINGERPRINTS GOT ON
THE ENVELOPE...



YEAH--MY FAMILY IS
MIND-BLOWINGLY RICH!

THE LIBRARY NEEDED
MONEY--SO--

I WENT OFF TO
SWITZERLAND
AND SENT ALL THAT
CASH SO NO ONE
COULD TRACE IT--





NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT OCT. 19



LETTERS to the BATMAN

for violence.

The stage has been set, the plot has taken its course, and we readers can now sit back and follow the course of events to its eventual conclusion. (You know, for a few minutes I actually felt that *The Batman* WAS doomed! Denny's writing skill is tremendous. Novick and Giordano are gifted.)

—CHRISTOPHER JURICH, Burlingame, Ca.



Dear Editor:

The Batman has indeed changed. I believe that Bruce Wayne—Rest in Peace" in *Batman* #42 will mark a turning point in *Batman*'s career greater by far than any he has passed before. No longer is he the strong guy in tights knocking the two-bit guys in. Now is he the "pokey-gusty" fellow who does a good turn every day for some poor underprivileged soul.

Now, thanks to Denny O'Neil, he has become *The Batman* of old, not unlike the Golden Age one depicted in this issue's "The People vs. Batman", who works outside the law, as Commissioner Gordon said, "So that he might bring these men of evil to justice." Now he is in an all-out fight with Ra's Al Ghul, and it is no holds barred. It's about time *The Batman* stopped being bound by the strict rules of the law (of course, if anyone tried that in real life I'd be after his head, but it's alright in comic), and went out to get the enemies of people by whatever means necessary.

The Bruce Wayne "death" incidentally was handled very neatly (although a bit over-emphasized on the cover and splash page); the "plane disappearance" bit always leaves open the possibility that Bruce may "miraculously" reappear after *The Batman* has beaten Ra's (as, of course, he must—he will not settle for another stalemate and we know that the good guy never gets killed). But meanwhile, good-bye to Bruce, and *The Batman* must find another place to sleep, eat, and get his supply of mon-

ey.

—RUSSELL BLAU, White Plains, N.Y.

(Well, this issue finds *The Batman* back bounding the bad guys in Gotham City—but when you started out on this series did you for even one, for that matter) ever imagine that for Bruce Wayne to reappear, *The Batman* would have to solve his own "murder"?)



Dear Editor:

Hear, sir, it is when I am totally absorbed, moved, and totally entertained by a comic magazine. Such feelings did I experience with the reading of "Bruce Wayne—Rest in Peace".

It's come to be that when Denny O'Neil writes something in a comic and says as he did in the introduction to this tale: "Beginning the most sensational, the most dangerous . . . the most IMPORTANT adventure . . . of *The Batman*, I believed it. I knew that something big, something sensational, was in the offing. And I was right.

Pitting *The Batman* and three as yet unconnected allies against a murderous criminal organization should prove to be an excellent springboard to draw out and illustrate the magnificent abilities of *The Batman*. I can readily understand *The Batman's* determination to squash this criminal organization of Ra's Al Ghul. I can understand his desire

Dear Editor:

Now that's really service! I sent you a letter complaining about the excessively long *Batman* stories, and you come right back with "Bruce Wayne—Rest in Peace" with only 14 pages! Of course, I know it was written and drawn long before I wrote my letter, but it is still a good move. Seriously, I think most stories should be 13 to 14 pages long (the back feature needs at least 8 pages to develop) if they aren't good enough to warrant the whole issue.

The idea of having a continued series is good, provided you don't drag it out too long—and by now I trust you won't. Particularly appreciated by this reader was the "Editor's Note" on the first page, explaining how to date these stories with respect to those in other magazines.

And I see you're going to wrap up this Ra's Al Ghul once and for all! The chase should be very interesting. It's too bad Ra's has decided to kill Batman after all—the idea of a ruthless criminal admiring Batman was quite original. But, knowing how ruthless such men are, I suppose it was inevitable.

I wish, though, you hadn't had that cook say "He's dead" like that. I mean, everyone knows you wouldn't kill Batman, so it was easy to guess the identity of "Matches" on the next page. You almost threw me off the track with that dummy, but the surprise didn't have the impact it should have had. Nonetheless, this was O'Neil's best *Batman* story in a long time.

—RICHARD H. MORRISSEY, Framingham, Mass.



Dear Editor:

"You have just witnessed the beginning . . . soon, you are destined to witness . . . the end!" All I can say to these closing words to the feature story in *Batman* #42 is, "Not too soon, I hope!" This series has too much going for it to be a mere two- or three-parter. The idea of *The Batman* singling out what he considers to be the world's most dangerous criminal and declaring war on him, to the exclusion of all other crime-fighting duties, is intriguing and leaves one's mental appetite whetted as to what directions this unique plot will take. If all the other episodes were handled as well as "Bruce Wayne—Rest in Peace" this has got to be a truly classic series. Batman's admission of dependence on page 2, his unique manner of recruiting allies, and his surprising rescue of Lo Ling on page 14 are highlights any magazine could be proud of. I raise my glass to you, gentlemen.

—DAVID R. MICHELINIE, Jeffersonville, Ind.



Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.